

Public Notice

Applicant:

Lorain Port Authority

Date: Published: August 25, 2004

Expires: September 23, 2004

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

In Reply Refer To:

Buffalo District CELRB-TD-R RE: 2000-00043(4) Section: OH 10 and 404

Application for Permit under Authority of Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).

The St. Claire Foundation, 3206 Warren Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44111, has requested a Department of the Army (DA) Permit to permanently dock the Steamer St. Claire at Black River Landing in the Port of Lorain, Ohio, located at 421 Black River Lane, Lorain, Ohio 44052.

Department of the Army authorization is requested for the permanent docking of the vessel to the existing shoreline bulkhead dock. The dock is located 65 feet from the Federal Channel. The St. Claire measures 197 feet long by 65 feet wide. Therefore, the docked ship will abut the Federal Channel.

No dredging or construction is proposed for this project.

The purpose of this project is to provide easy access to the St. Claire during restoration. The docking will also provide opportunities for the vessel to be open for various events throughout the year.

The docking of the St. Claire at the Black River Landing is anticipated to end when restoration is complete, an estimated 10 years.

Location and details of the above described work are shown on the attached maps and drawings.

Questions pertaining to the work described in this notice should be directed to Megan C. Oberst, who can be contacted by calling (716) 879-4308, or by e-mail at: megan.c.oberst@usace.army.mil

The applicant has certified that the proposed activity complies with Ohio's approved Coastal Zone Management Program and will be conducted in a manner consistent with that program. Any comments on the consistency of the proposed activity with Ohio's Coastal Zone Management Program should be forwarded to:

Ms. Mindy Bankey
Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Consistency Coordinator
Office of Legislative Services
1930 Belcher Drive, Bldg D-3
Columbus, Ohio 43224-1387
Telephone (614) 265-6836
FAX (614) 261-9601
e-mail: mindy.bankey@dnr.state.oh.us

There are 2 registered historic properties or properties listed as being eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places that may possibly be affected by this project. A search on of the OHPO online historic properties database indicates that three historic buildings are located in the vicinity of the proposed project. To the north, the Renaissance Inn Hotel, LOR127216, is located at 301 - 309 Broadway Street. Both the First Lorain Trust Bank Building, LOR127316, and the Duane Building, LOR127416, are located to the south of the proposed project at 383 and 387 - 401 Broadway Street, respectively. All three historic properties are located outside the Project Area. The mooring of the St. Claire at the proposed project location is not anticipated to have any impact on the historic properties. This notice is intended to initiate consultation with the Ohio Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) per Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. All currently available cultural resource information pertaining to this proposed project, if any, has been enclosed for SHPO. Should additional information be required for SHPO review, please request this in writing (e-mail is acceptable) within the comment period of this notice.

In addition, available evidence indicates that the proposed work will not affect a species proposed or designated by the U.S. Department of the Interior as threatened or endangered, nor will it affect the critical habitat of any such species.

This notice is promulgated in accordance with Title 33, Code of Federal Regulations, parts 320-330. Any interested party desiring to comment on the work described herein may do so by submitting their comments, in writing, so that they are received no later than 4:30 pm on the expiration date of this notice.

Comments should be sent to the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1776 Niagara Street, Buffalo, New York 14207, and should be marked to the attention of Megan C. Oberst, or by e-mail at: megan.c.oberst@usace.army.mil. A lack of response will be interpreted as meaning that there is no objection to the work as proposed.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be fully considered during the public interest review for this permit application. All written comments will be made a part of the administrative record which is available to the public under the Freedom of Information Act. The Administrative Record, or portions thereof may also be posted on a Corps of Engineers internet web site. Due to resource limitations, this office will normally not acknowledge the receipt of comments or respond to individual letters of comment.

Any individual may request a public hearing by submitting their written request, stating the specific reasons for holding a hearing, in the same manner and time period as other comments.

Public hearings for the purposes of the Corps permit program will be held when the District Commander determines he can obtain additional information, not available in written comments, that will aid him in the decision making process for this application. A Corps hearing is not a source of information for the general public, nor a forum for the resolution of issues or conflicting points of view (witnesses are not sworn and cross examination is prohibited). Hearings will not be held to obtain information on issues unrelated to the work requiring a permit, such as property ownership, neighbor disputes, or the behavior or actions of the public or applicant on upland property not regulated by the Department of the Army. Information obtained from a public hearing is given no greater weight than that obtained from written comments. Therefore, you should not fail to make timely written comments because a hearing might be held.

The decision to approve or deny this permit request will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact, including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among these are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Thomas C. Switala Chief, Regulatory Branch

NOTICE TO POSTMASTER: It is requested that this notice be posted continuously and conspicuously for 30 days from the date of issuance.







